Amendment and Response Dated May 8, 2006

Reply to a Non-Final Office Action Mailed November 10, 2005

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This claim listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

- 1-8. (canceled)
- 9. (withdrawn currently amended) A process of producing a huE3α human E3α ubiquitin ligase polypeptide comprising:
- a.) inserting an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 into a vector;
 - b.) inserting said vector into a host cell;
 - c.) culturing said host cell under suitable conditions to express the polypeptide; and
 - d.) optionally isolating the polypeptide from the cultured host cell.

10-11. (canceled)

12. (withdrawn – currently amended) A process for determining whether a compound inhibits huE3α human E3α ubiquitin ligase polypeptide activity or production comprising exposing a host cell according to claim 9 to the compound, and measuring huE3α human E3α ubiquitin ligase polypeptide activity or production in said host cell.

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(canceled)

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13. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

14.	(currer	ntly amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence
selected from the group consisting of:		
	-(a)	the mature amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 comprising a
mature	amino	terminus at residue 1, optionally further comprising an amino-terminal
methic	nine;	
	(b)	an amino acid sequence for an ortholog of SEQ ID NO: 2;
	(c)	-an-amino-acid-sequence that is at least [about 70, 80, 85, 90] 95 [, 96, 97, 98, or
99] per	rcent id	entical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the polypeptide has
an <u>hun</u>	nan E3o	α ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2[‡]
	(d)	a fragment of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 comprising at
least a l	20ut 25	amino acid residues, wherein the polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide set
forth i	-SEQ-I	D NO: 2;
	(e)	an amino acid sequence for an allelic variant or splice variant of either the amino
acid-se	quence	as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, or at least one of (a) (c).

- 16. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 with at least one 1 to 100 conservative amino acid substitution substitution(s), wherein the polypeptide has an human E3α ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (b) the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 with at least one 1 to 100 conservative amino acid insertion insertion(s), wherein the polypeptide has an human $E3\alpha$ ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;

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(c) the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 with at least one 1 to 100 conservative amino acid deletion deletion(s), wherein the polypeptide has an human $E3\alpha$ ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;

- (d) the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 which has a C- and/or N-terminal truncation up to about 100 amino acids, wherein the polypeptide has an human E3α ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2; and
- (e) the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, with at least one a modification of 1 to 100 amino acids consisting of amino acid substitutions, amino acid insertions, amino acid deletions, C-terminal truncation, and N-terminal truncation, wherein the polypeptide has an human E3α ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.
- 17. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (c) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of the coding sequence of (a) or (b), wherein said stringent conditions comprise a final wash with 0.015 M sodium chloride and 0.0015 M sodium citrate at 65-68°C in 0.1x SSC and 0.1% SDS or 0.015 M sodium chloride, 0.0015M sodium citrate, and 50% formamide at 42°C, wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide which has human E3α ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence fully complementary to any of (a)-(c).
- 18. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide according to claim 14 wherein the percent identity is determined using a computer program selected from the group consisting of GAP, BLASTP, BLASTN, FASTA, BLASTA, BLASTX, BestFit, and the Smith-Waterman algorithm.

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19-39. (canceled)

40. (currently amended) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claims claim 13, 14, or

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16, or 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent.

41. (original) The composition of claim 40 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable

formulation agent is a carrier, adjuvant, solubilizer, stabilizer, or anti-oxidant.

42. (previously presented) The composition of claim 40 wherein the polypeptide comprises

the mature amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

43. (currently amended) A polypeptide comprising a chemically modified derivative of the

polypeptide of claims claim 13, 14, or 16, or 17.

44. (currently amended) The polypeptide <u>derivative</u> of claim 43 which is covalently modified

with a water-soluble polymer.

45. (original) The polypeptide of claim 44 wherein the water-soluble polymer is selected

from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, monomethoxy-polyethylene glycol, dextran,

cellulose, poly-(N-vinyl pyrrolidone) polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol homopolymers,

polypropylene oxide/ethylene oxide co-polymers, polyoxyethylated polyols, and polyvinyl

alcohol.

46-48. (canceled)

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49. (currently amended) A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of elaims claim 13, 14, or 16, or 17 fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence.

50. (original) The fusion polypeptide of claim 49 wherein the heterologous amino acid sequence is an IgG constant domain or fragment thereof.

51-57. (canceled)

- 58. (withdrawn currently amended) A method of identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide comprising:
- (a) contacting the polypeptide of elaims claim 13, 14, or 16, or 17 with a compound; and
 - (b) determining the extent of binding of the polypeptide to the compound.

59-66. (canceled)